

SUBCHAPTER J—LEGAL AND RELATED SERVICES

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AUTHORITY: Sec. 4, 63 Stat. 111, as amended; 22 U.S.C. 2658.

SOURCE: 22 FR 10858, Dec. 27, 1957, unless otherwise noted.

§91.1 Answering inquiries regarding tariff acts and customs regulations.

In replying to inquiries received from exporters, travelers, or other interested parties, concerning tariff acts or customs regulations, consular officers shall refrain from giving, or appearing to give, decisions pertaining to matters upon which they are not competent to pass.

§91.2 Furnishing samples to collectors of customs or appraising officers.

Upon the receipt of a request therefor from a collector of customs or appraising officer of the Government of the United States, a consular officer shall procure and forward samples of merchandise being imported or offered for importation into the United States from his particular district.

§91.3 Assistance to Customs and Tariff Commission representatives.

Consular officers shall render all proper assistance to Customs and Tariff Commission representatives abroad to aid them in the performance of their official duties.

§91.4 Alcoholic liquors on vessels of not over 500 tons.

(a) Upon request of interested shippers or masters of vessels at ports in the consular district other than the place where the consular office is situated, consular officers shall designate one or more reputable individuals residing in each such port, as authorized persons to witness the signatures of

the masters of vessels of not over 500 net tons when affixed to declarations covering shipments of alcoholic liquors destined to the United States, and to issue certificates therefor as contemplated by section 7 of the Anti-Smuggling Act of 1935 (49 Stat. 520; 19 U.S.C. 1707). Any person so designated by a consular officer to issue such certificates shall state in each of his certificates that he has no interest in the shipment described therein. Having delivered the original document to the master, he shall forward the duplicate to the consular office for retention.

(b) Consular officers shall, with respect to declarations of masters of vessels of not over 500 net tons in instances in which the port of shipment is the same place as, or conveniently near to, the location of the consular office, supply their certifications directly as contemplated by the said section of the Anti-Smuggling Act. They shall retain, over the interval prescribed in the applicable records retirement schedule, a copy of each document so certified by them. They shall similarly retain the copies of the certifications supplied by authorized persons in outlying ports of the consular district, as set forth in the preceding subsection.

(c) This section, read together with §4.13, title 19, of the Code of Federal Regulations, comprises the joint regulations contemplated for issuance by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury under section 7 of the Anti-Smuggling Act of 1935.

[32 FR 12588, Aug. 30, 1967]

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AUTHORITY: 22 U.S.C. 2658, unless otherwise noted.

SOURCE: 22 FR 10858, Dec. 27, 1957, unless otherwise noted.

INTRODUCTION

§ 92.1 Definitions.

(a) In the United States the term *notary* or *notary public* means a public officer qualified and bonded under the laws of a particular jurisdiction for the performance of notarial acts, usually in connection with the execution of some document.

(b) The term *notarial act* means an act recognized by law or usage as pertaining to the office of a notary public.

(c) The term *notarial certificate* may be defined as the signed and sealed statement to which a “notarial act” is almost invariably reduced. The “notarial certificate” attests to the performance of the act by the notary, and may be an independent document or as in general American notarial practice, may be placed on or attached to the notarized document.

(d) For purposes of this part, except §§ 92.36 through 92.42 relating to the authentication of documents, the term *notarizing officer* includes consular officers, officers of the Foreign Service who are secretaries of embassy or legation under Section 24 of the Act of August 18, 1856, 11 Stat. 61, as amended (22 U.S.C. 4221), and such U.S. citizen Department of State employees as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Overseas Citizens Services may designate for the purpose of performing notarial acts overseas pursuant to section 127(b) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994–1995, Pub. L. 103–236, April 30, 1994 (“designated employees”). The authority of designated employees to perform no-

tarial services shall not include the authority to perform authentications, to notarize patent applications, or take testimony in a criminal action or proceeding pursuant to a commission issued by a court in the United States, but shall otherwise encompass all notarial acts, including but not limited to administering or taking oaths, affirmations, affidavits or depositions.

The notarial authority of a designated employee shall expire upon termination of the employee’s assignment to such duty and may also be terminated at any time by the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Overseas Citizen Services.

[22 FR 10858, Dec. 27, 1957, as amended at 60 FR 51721, Oct. 3, 1995]

§ 92.2 Description of overseas notarial functions of the Department of State, record of acts.

The overseas notarial function of notarizing officers of the Department of State is similar to the function of a notary public in the United States. See § 22.5(b) of this chapter concerning the giving of receipts for fees collected and the maintenance of a register serving the same purposes as the record which notaries are usually expected or required to keep of their official acts.

[60 FR 51721, Oct. 3, 1995]

§ 92.3 Consular districts.

Where consular districts have been established, the geographic limits of the district determine the area in which notarial acts can be performed by the notarizing officer. See § 92.41 (b) regarding authentication of the seals and signatures of foreign officials outside the consular district.

[27 FR 12616, Dec. 20, 1962, as amended at 60 FR 51723, Oct. 3, 1995]

§ 92.4 Authority of notarizing officers of the Department of State under Federal law.

(a) All notarizing officers are required, when application is made to them within the geographic limits of their consular district, to administer to and take from any person any oath, affirmation, affidavit, or deposition, and to perform any notarial act which